

# StarBurst

**Your On-Line Resource Companion For and About DOE's Voluntary Protection Program**



*Dave Smith, VPP Team Leader; Harry Pettengill, Director, Office of Regulatory Liaison, and Beverly Cook, Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health attend the Richland Health and Safety Expo*

## Richland Health and Safety Expo

The seventh annual Richland Health and Safety Exposition (EXPO) took place from April 30 through May 2, 2002. The EXPO was conceived at Hanford in 1994, and the first EXPO was held in May 1995. That EXPO had 3,500 participants, and was hailed as a "roaring" success. The following year, the EXPO targeted employees and their families only. Exhibits from Hanford and the community health and safety groups included information and experts to talk to people about safety equipment and supplies; health topics, including stress, diet and exercise; home security; and other safety tips, including boating, bicycle and seat belt safety.

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**Article submission and feedback to the e-VPP Starburst may be sent to Editor-in-Chief, Carlos Coffman DOE, EH-51, at [carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov](mailto:carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov), or 301-903-6493.**

## River Corridor Project Celebrates "Star" Status

The River Corridor Project (RCP) employees were recently honored with a special celebration at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center for reaching "STAR Status" in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The formal program ceremony began with the National Anthem, and was followed by the award presentation officiated by Dr. Harry Pettengill, Director of DOE's Office of Regulatory Liaison. "This is a heck of an achievement," Dr. Pettengill told the crowd, "We are really proud of what you've done and how you've done it." Dr. Pettengill's office administers the VPP for workers in the DOE Complex.

"Folks, this is a win-win-win situation for all of us," stated Master of Ceremonies, Mal Wright, Director of the 324 Building Deactivation Project "It's a win for us as a group because we have a safer working environment. It's a win for our company because that safe environment makes us more productive. And it's a win for DOE because, as a result, they are able to honor their commitment to the American people: to establish as safe a working environment as they can."

"I'm really honored to represent Keith Klein here today," stated Beth Bilson, DOE Richland Operations Office, Assistant Manager for RCP. She added that stakeholders share in the win. "They need to know there are jobs out here that are safe to do, that the work is getting done, and the risk is being reduced."

Shirley Olinger, DOE-Richland, Assistant Manager for Safety and Engineering, called the partnership with Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) an impressive part of the positive safety culture she has witnessed at Hanford. "You should

be very proud. You are now going to be mentors and pathfinders for others seeking DOE-VPP Star Status."

Fluor Hanford, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Keith Thomson, expressed pride that five of Hanford's six DOE-VPP stars are Fluor-related. He said the achievement is an example of the Fluor corporate values: safety, integrity, teamwork and excellence.

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## Richland DOE-VPP Ceremony

During this year's Richland Health and Safety Exposition (EXPO), a special ceremony was held on May 1, to recognize the worker and management teams of six (6) Richland operations for achieving DOE-VPP Star recognition, the highest level of excellence in occupational safety and health. Five members of Fluor Hanford Co., Inc. have been recognized as DOE-VPP Stars, including: Fluor Federal Services - FFS; Day & Zimmermann, PTH; the Fast Flux Test Facility; the River Corridor Project; and Fluor Hanford, Inc. - HSO. The sixth DOE-VPP Star site is the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory operated by Battelle Memorial Institute for the Department. These operations join an elite group of companies recognized for excellence in occupational safety and health. Out of nearly 7 million companies and/or business operations in the U.S., less than 800 companies are recognized as Star sites. It is indeed a special achievement to have six of that elite group at Richland.





## Richland Health and Safety Expo

*(Continued from Page 1)*

In 1996, the EXPO expanded from just Hanford employees to the general public. At the same time, it became a true all Hanford EXPO, and children and staff from the public schools were invited. The following year, the EXPO became so popular that it was moved to a larger facility in Pasco, and attendance reached 10,000 participants.

Each subsequent year, the EXPO continued to reach out to the public and create more interest and participation from the community. In 2001, the EXPO had 21,000 in attendance, and local television and radio stations provided free community service airtime to advertise the event. Local newspapers throughout the Columbia Basin region of Washington State carried articles about the EXPO.

Since it began, the most popular feature at the EXPO has been a simulated mock Vehicle Accident Demonstration (VAD), geared toward eliminating driving under the influence (DUI) accidents. State and local communities have been extremely supportive of this event; and currently, all the middle, high, private and driving schools throughout the Columbia Basin



*Beverly Cook, Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health, speaks to EXPO Participants*

attend the VAD. As a result of its success, in 1998, Fluor Hanford Co., Inc. and the U.S. Department of Energy developed an interactive CD-ROM, to be used by driver's education students to reduce DUI accidents. This year, State Farm Insurance Co., Inc. and the Seattle Mariners' organization have provided additional funding to distribute these CD-ROMs to drivers' education programs throughout the U.S.

## River Corridor Project Celebrates "Star" Status

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Norm Boyter, Fluor Hanford, Vice-President of RCP, added, "Each of you won this award. It puts you in an elite class of workforces. And when I think of the work you do in terms of the demands, physically and radiologically, I think of you as the elite of the elite." Boyter thanked DOE for the opportunity that the VPP Star provides for comparison with the rest of the industry.

This is the 19th DOE-VPP Star awarded, and the sixth at Hanford, where Star status is being sought by individual projects, facilities and contractors, in contrast to the site-wide approach used at most other DOE sites.



*Local firefighters participate in the EXPO Vehicle Accident Demonstration (VAD)*





## Region II VPPPA Annual Conference in Atlantic City, NJ

*Submitted by Rama Sastry, EH-51*

The VPP Region II 10th Annual Conference was held in Atlantic City, NJ, June 4-6, 2002. The theme of this year's conference was "Re-Building with Safety." This year's theme reflected the tragic events of September 11th that took place within Region II, and the heroic recovery made by the people of New York City.

Seventy-three VPP sites are in Region II, and were represented by approximately 230 participants. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has one VPP Star Site in Region II, West Valley Nuclear Service.

Opening Remarks were made by Herb Tracy, Chairperson of the Region II Board of Directors. Norman Deitch, OSHA Region II VPP Manager, updated the conference attendees on how the Office provided support to workers involved in the clean-up activities of the World Trade Center (WTC) after September 11th. Deitch also discussed the changes in OSHA reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and the conversion of SIC codes to North American Classification System (NACS) codes. Paul Villane, Executive Director of the VPPPA presented an update of the National VPPPA. He indicated that the goals of the Association are to increase the participants from 800 to 8,000, and to enhance member benefits by VPPPA.

Conference attendees had several breakout sessions from which to choose. The topics included the following:

- Meet your VPP Manager
- National Environmental Performance track
- From Start to Star in a Union Environment
- ABC of an AED Program
- Recordkeeping: All Systems to Go!
- Emergency Response Plans & Security
- Electrical Safety, Fires and Wires
- Special Government Employee Program
- Job Safety Analysis
- Contractor Interface at a VPP Site
- How to be a Good Mentor

The conference ended with an inspiring speech by the 1980 Gold Medal U.S. Olympic Team Coach, Herb Brooks. During the closing session, OSHA presented a slide show of the WTC clean-up activities, and how OSHA provided assistance in the areas of respiratory protection, personal protective equipment, and industrial hygiene sampling.

### ***Did You Know?***

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued interim guidance for Voluntary Protection Programs.

**Purpose:** To provide interim guidance concerning implementation of policy and procedural changes to the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) published in the July 24, 2000 Federal Register notice.

**Federal Program Change:** This Direction describes a Federal Program Change for which State adoption is not required.

**Originating Office:** Directorate of Federal-State Operations.

**Contact:** Cathy Oliver, Chief, Division of Voluntary Programs  
Directorate of Federal-State Operations  
200 Constitution Ave., NW, Rm. N3700  
Washington, DC 20210  
Tele 202-693-2213

For additional information, please visit the link provided below:

[www.osha.gov/oshprogs/vpp/index/html](http://www.osha.gov/oshprogs/vpp/index/html)  
Click on OSHA Directive 01-02



## DOE-VPP Outreach & Homeland Security: A Personal Perspective

*Submitted by Bertha Cassingham*

When we look at the aspects of VPP Mentoring and Outreach, we may feel that our DOE realm is very different from private companies trying to obtain their OSHA-VPP recognition, and we may wonder how we can really reach out and help them. Well, we now have a way: to help when and where it is needed most: homeland security.

Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, I received a call for help from our region to prepare a workshop to assist private companies and manufacturers with homeland security-related issues. During that process, I received numerous calls for help from private companies involved in OSHA-VPP programs.

One evening, shortly after September 11, 2001, the CEO of a large corporation telephoned me to request any information he could use and implement at his company to give him "peace of mind." Knowing that his corporation already had an excellent safety and health record for employees, his level of fear and concern surprised me.

As requests came pouring in, it soon became apparent that what we, involved in the DOE sector, consider every day basics, the private sector equates as truly new approaches. DOE has the expertise the private sector needs, and the answers to provide "peace of mind." We also have the mechanism through our VPP Mentoring and Outreach programs to assist these private businesses, and thus help our country's homeland security efforts. Although the DOE Complex is active nationally, there is much that we can do to help large and small businesses within our regions.

For instance, during those discussions it became clear that the DOE realm's expertise is vitally needed by private companies in the following areas:

- Basic employee accountability systems;
- Evacuation plans;
- Shelter-in-Place programs;

- Security, including, Vulnerability Assessments, basic vehicle searches, employee background checks, cybersecurity, and waterway protection;
- Cradle-to-Grave principles for companies that produce/ship/store items of interest to terrorists, including, inventory management, shipment tracking, driver selection, and Safe Haven programs;
- Emergency Planning, including, quantifiable planning--worst case scenarios, conducting Emergency Response Needs Assessments, and Mass Casualty Planning;
- Vital records;
- Occupational health programs, and Bio-med training;
- Exercises, including, how to conduct and evaluate drills and exercises, and Joint Agency Critiques; and
- Similarities between rad and bio hazards, including, actual response, decontamination, containment and using a rad survey/permit type mapping system to work in biocontaminated areas.

Additionally, I have received requests for information regarding idea sharing within the DOE Complex on homeland security issues. I believe the VPP forum is ideal to address this. Although most of those needs don't deal directly with security at our facilities, they do address our preparedness: for instance, your Job Hazard Analysis and Planning most likely do not include sending response teams into community disaster areas that may include bioterrorism issues.

We must now use a more narrowed scope when evaluating our programs. Ask yourself when the last time your facility evaluated its Emergency Response Needs Assessment, in particular, to establish new equipment needs, etc.

These are just a few of the examples of the many opportunities we have to be good neighbors and support our country's needs. The progress we make in our country's war against terrorism will be won by each individual, company, organization and government agency working as a team.

## Time Out for Safety: A Key to WSSRAP's Safety Culture

*Submitted by Gary F. Branich  
M.K. Ferguson, Site VPP Contact*

As the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) nears completion, we have an opportunity to look back and ask ourselves, what are some of the things that had a significant impact on our site safety culture. Without a doubt, for WSSRAP, it is "Time Out for Safety," a safety program initiated in 1993. The program began six years before the site was considered for DOE-VPP recognition, and continues today to be a key to our safety culture.

For example, you are an employee at a DOE Site. You find yourself watching what appears to be a potentially unsafe work activity. What do you do? If you work at WSSRAP, you ask questions and take "Time Out for Safety." All employees at WSSRAP are encouraged to stop and ask questions when they are involved in, or observe, a potentially unsafe situation.

The idea for "Time Out for Safety" began with one individual asking why a subcontractor was not taking time out to discuss safety issues. He was concerned that workers and supervisors were hesitant to stop work to discuss safety problems. The time out concept seemed like a good way to pause an activity without a formal work stoppage. The idea grew and now has been adopted site-wide.

At first, some people thought workers might use "Time Out for Safety" to avoid work. However, because work stopped only for safety and health concerns, supervisors and employees began communicating on a new level, improving relations and preventing incidents. Supervisors were encouraged by the response from workers, and workers felt management supported them. One of the subcontractors had such good results with "Time Out for Safety" that his regional health and safety manager presented the concept at other company locations.



"Time Out for Safety" is employee-driven. 'Time outs' and their solutions are discussed at the 'Plan of the Day' meeting, each morning. For example, site employees designed the "Time Out for Safety" logo. Then, as a reminder, the logo is used on hardhat stickers given to personnel. Additionally, Lessons Learned, based on 'time outs,' provide valuable information to other employees. This employee-owned program has prevented incidents simply by calling "Time Out for Safety."

WSSRAP's success with "Time Out for Safety" is that the program is employee, not procedure, driven. The program prescribes that a safety and health success does not have to be formalized procedure or policy.

For additional information regarding the WSSRAP "Time Out for Safety" program, contact Gary Branich, MK Ferguson Site VPP Contact, at 636-441-8086, or Joe Enright, the DOE Safety and Health Manager, at 636-926-7006.



## In the Event of an Emergency: Evacuating Everyone Safely

Recent events have precipitated both employees and management to re-evaluate the in-place safety protocols at federal facilities and sites. In particular, management must re-address how to ensure, in the event of an emergency, all personnel have the ability or resources to evacuate the building safely.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has addressed this very concern, in its publication, "Guide For Evacuating People With Disabilities." The USDA Guide provides the following insights:

### Emergency Evacuations

When an emergency alarm sounds, or if you're told to evacuate the building, get out - regardless of your situation. Just because you can't see the danger, doesn't mean it doesn't exist or won't hurt you. There may not be time to tell everyone the nature of the emergency. If you ignore the alert and elect to stay in your office, you're putting yourself, and emergency rescue people, in danger.

Remember, in an emergency situation -

1. Never stay in a building after an evacuation alarm sounds.
2. Never take an elevator during an emergency evacuation.
3. Know where the nearest exit, fire alarm manual station, and fire extinguisher are located.
4. Don't panic.
5. If you have a cell phone or pager, keep it with you.

### Helping Someone With a Disability

What should you do if you have a disability or if you want to help someone with a disability during an emergency situation? If you know what to do in an emergency, you'll be less likely to panic. Here are some tips:

1. Meet with your supervisor to find out what people with disabilities should do to get out of the building during an emergency. In addition, learn



where there's an alternate route out of the building if the primary exit is blocked.

2. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, strobe lights and vibrating pagers can tell you that you need to leave the building.
3. If you use a wheelchair or have mobility disabilities, you should have access to a special telephone to use to call for instructions. Evacu-Track chairs can be used to take people down stairs. Emergency teams are trained to use these chairs.
4. Never let go of your service animal, if you use one. That animal is your lifeline.
5. Consider using a buddy system, where a co-worker is responsible for helping get out of the building safely. If the person with the disability chooses to use a buddy, he or she must train the buddy to help. The buddy needs to be familiar with the guide dog or other service animal so that they don't waste valuable time trying to form a working relationship during the emergency. Get and train a back-up buddy, in case the primary buddy is unavailable.
6. Practice getting out of the building using one of the emergency exit routes every six months. That way you won't forget the procedures and if you have a service animal, the animal will be accustomed to the route.
7. When the emergency alarm sounds, if you have a service animal, always leave the building. If you don't, your service animal will learn to disregard the alarm.
8. If you work in a different area for an extended time, get a temporary buddy.



## How VPP Has Improved Business

Since joining DOE-VPP, several facilities have demonstrated how membership in the VPP program has improved their methods of doing business.

DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations Co., Inc. has formed a VPP Advisory Council, with members from each of its sites. The council meets quarterly, rotating sites, to share practical solutions to mutual problems. Already, the meetings have provided DynMcDermott sites with excellent site-to-site, employee-to-employee communication and feedback, which they attribute directly to involvement in DOE-VPP.



*Dyn McDermott Petroleum Operations Co.,  
Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Big Hill*

Since it received its Merit status in 1998 and Gold status in 1999, MK-Ferguson-Jacobs Engineering (WSSRAP) has twice earned one million hours without an OSHA recordable incident.

Additionally, DOE-VPP participants have provided assistance to other applicants and partners. Hanford has provided assistance to its sites applying for VPP status; assisted Oak Ridge National Laboratory with their VPP application; and assisted River Corridor Project, Fast Flux Test Facility, and Pacific Northwest Laboratories with preparing for their onsite evaluations.



*Hanford Site*

VPP participants have also mentored private businesses. For example, Westinghouse TRU Solutions, Inc. (WIPP) mentored two operations, Phelps Dodge and Signal White Sands Test Facility; Wackenhut Services, Inc. (Nevada Site) mentored IT Corporation; and Hanford mentored Valero Oil Co. with their worksite analysis.

DOE-VPP participants have also provided external agencies with valuable insights. Hanford demonstrates this through their recent efforts to assist the Department of Interior (DOL) by improving DOL's statistical analysis of injuries, and through their assistance to Puget Sound Naval Ship Yard by improving their construction and labor/management relationships.



*Wackenhut Services, Inc., Nevada Test Site*





### **Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association (VPPPA): Annual Conference**

The 18th Annual National VPPPA Conference will be held September 9-12, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme is "Celebrating Safety and Health Partnerships."

The Annual National VPPPA Conference offers a unique forum for employee, management and government leaders to work and learn together to achieve better workplace safety, health and environmental protection.

The four-day event includes: general sessions featuring top officials from OSHA and corporate America, two days full of workshops coordinated by VPPPA members, an Exhibit Hall, and several evening networking functions. Gary Heminger, president of Marathon Ashland Petroleum, LLC will be the keynote speaker. Also speaking will be John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA.

DOE will be well represented with workshops by sites within the Complex. Presenters and topics will be listed in the Special Summer issue of Starburst dedicated to DOE's involvement at the National Conference. Look for this issue in early August.

For more information on the DOE-VPP participation in the National VPPPA Conference, please contact David Smith at 301-903-4669

### **Hotel Information**

September 9-12, 2002  
The Orlando World Center Marriott  
Orlando, FL

Hotel Reservations: (800) 621-0638

Contact the hotel directly to make hotel reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved for your stay for a limited time only. Mention the VPPPA and the conference to receive the special VPPPA rate. All reservations must be made by August 9, 2002, to secure the VPPPA rates.

### **VPPPA Regional Chapter Conferences**

#### **Region III**

Region III VPPPA Chapter Conference:  
July 11 - 12, 2002  
Radisson Fort Macgruder Hotel and  
Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA  
Hotel Reservations: (757) 220-2250

#### **Region V**

Region V VPPPA Chapter Conference:  
April 22 - 23, 2003  
Midway Express Center. HQ Hotel:  
The Milwaukee Hyatt  
Milwaukee, WI  
Hotel Reservations: (414) 276-1234  
For More Information Contact:  
Ron Mauermann at (920) 438-4200

#### **Region VI**

Region VI VPPPA Chapter Conference:  
March 5 - 7, 2003  
Radisson Plaza (Headquarters Hotel)  
Fort Worth, TX  
Hotel Reservations: (817) 870-2100  
For More Information Contact:  
Buddy Elmore at (409) 989-6079



## Discussion Topic

We will be launching a particular topic, to initiate and foster an open forum between the DOE organization and its VPP partners.

Our first topic of discussion will address how homeland security issues have affected the way your facility conducts business, and/or interacts with the local community, or your Region Points-of-Contact.

For example, by addressing this issue, have you found positive outcomes (i.e., enhanced health and safety programs, positive responses from mentoring activities or public outreach)? Have employees provided your organization with ideas and feedback to assist you in implementing your goals?

*Please submit your responses to our DOE e-VPP Starburst, Editor-in-Chief, Carlos Coffman, at [carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov](mailto:carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov).*

## Letters to the Staff

*We would like to hear from you! Please send your lessons learned, and/or questions to the DOE e-VPP Starburst staff, and we will print them in this publication.*

*Send your correspondence to our Editor-in-Chief, Carlos Coffman, at [carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov](mailto:carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov).*